04
EIGHTH

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河内和泉

誰かのために自分が動くことは当然自覚的ですが他人が自分のために動いてくれていることは中々わかりにくいものであったりするわけで。かといって「本当の自分の気持ち」なんていうのも中々自分ではわからなかったりするもので。不器用な人たちが色々頑張って、一体誰のために何をしていたのか、なんてのが終着する今巻です。そしてついに、ベストオブ不器用が決まります。

IZUMI KAWACHI

8

EIGHTH

エイス

The Eighth Day of Creation

河内和泉

GC JOKER
EIGHTH エイス 8
河内和泉
SC

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SQUARE ENIX.

「後から行く」と
約束し、バチカンに
残ったルカ。
その安否を巡り、
セルシア、ナオヤ、ヒカル、
それぞれの想いが交錯する中で、
最後に明かされる真相とは――…!?
バチカン編完結&コメディ展開で
人気の番外編も収録した、
待望の第8巻――!!

8

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SQUARE ENIX

EIGHTH RESEARCH

FIFTH 08

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PLEASE!
PLEASE TAKE ME INSIDE WITH YOU.
I HAVE TO GO IN,
OR LUCA WILL BE...

LUCA...
HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY...
BUT...
QUICKLY !!
Naoya-kun...
WHAT !?
SHOUNEN, YOU'RE THAT INTERESTED IN THE ACADEMY?!
!!
Y-YES MA'AM!
AH! I SEE, I SEE! WELL THEN...
sudden sparkling

You can't.
!
You must return to Eighth.

Operation.29 (オペレーション)

Quality of Life, (クオリティ オブ ライフ) ⑩ What Cannot Be Saved

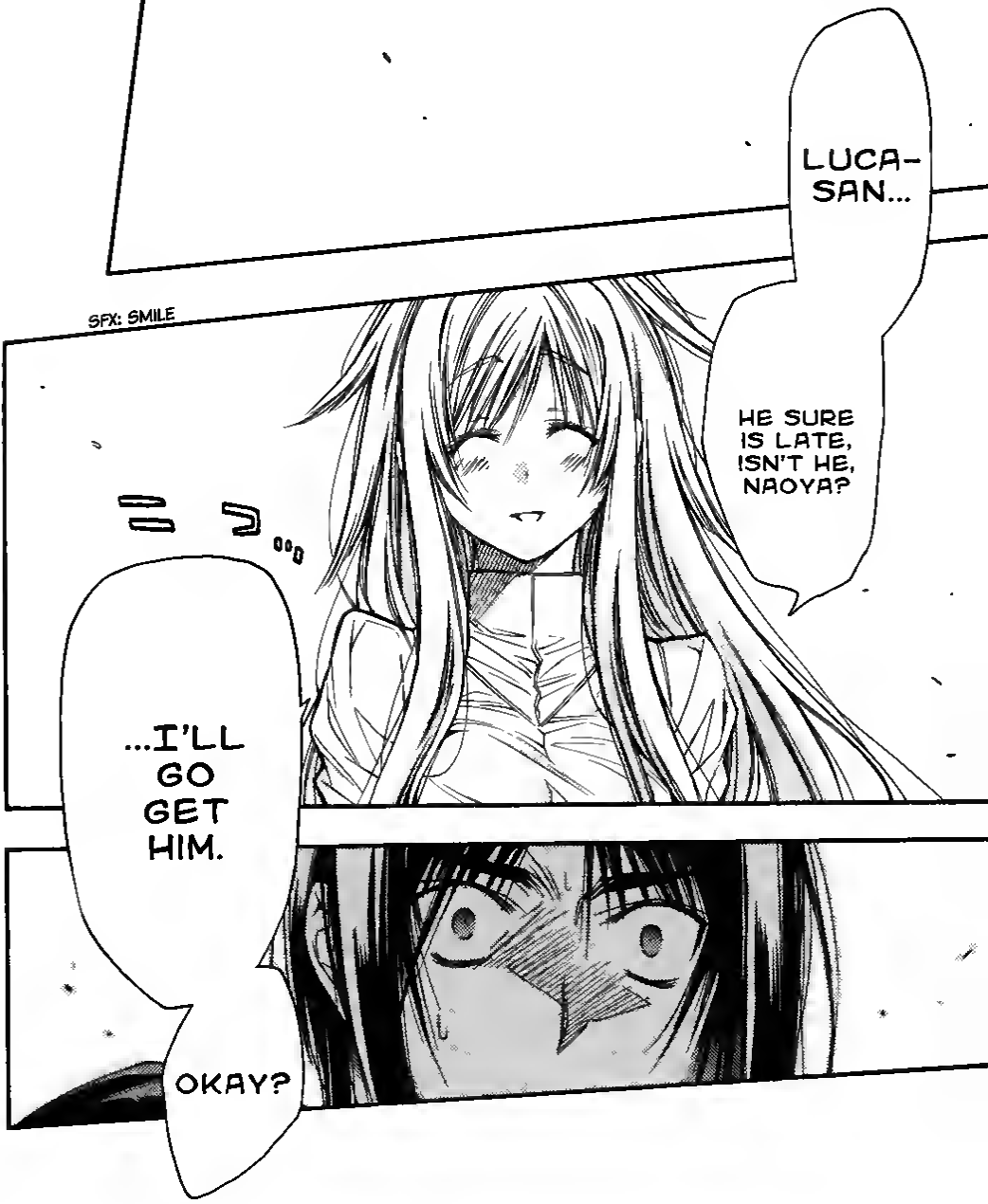
MARI-SAN!
You can't.
You came to talk to Celcia, didn't you?
You can't do anything more than that.
NO WAY!
AT THIS RATE, LUCA'S GOING TO SHOULDER THE WHOLE THING HIMSELF.
YOU CAN'T BE SURE EITHER, CAN YOU, MARI-SAN?
OTHERS CERTAINLY WON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED.
Naoya-kun.
THAT...

Being prepared to put one's life on the line makes them a great guard. I won't say anything contrary to that.
That is what Luca chose to do, and it was the only thing he did.
I'm going in!
However... what I won't allow is for his sacrifice to end with dishonor.
YOU! WILL! WAIT!
I'll talk to him myself, and—
In there should be the person who gave Luca the order to bring Celcia here.

No!
YOU'VE GOT THE BALLS TO SAY THAT WHEN YOU JUST SAID YOU'D USE DR ANGELA TO GET IN!?
WHAT ?!
I'M NO LONGER AFFILIATED WITH EIGHTH, AM I?!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW I GET IN.
LUCA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
THE ONE WHO DID THE AS-SAULTING WAS THE BISHOP.
HE COVERED UP THE BISHOP'S DEATH TO SAVE CELCIA!
NAOYA-KUN!

I get it, but listen...
You are *not* supposed to be here, and you being an eyewitness is beyond belief.
I didn't come here to get you into the Vatican.
It was to get you out of here.
I will look into Luca's situation.
BUT...
NO BUTS!
ARE YOU TRYING TO CUT OFF CELCIA'S RELATION-SHIP WITH EIGHTH?!

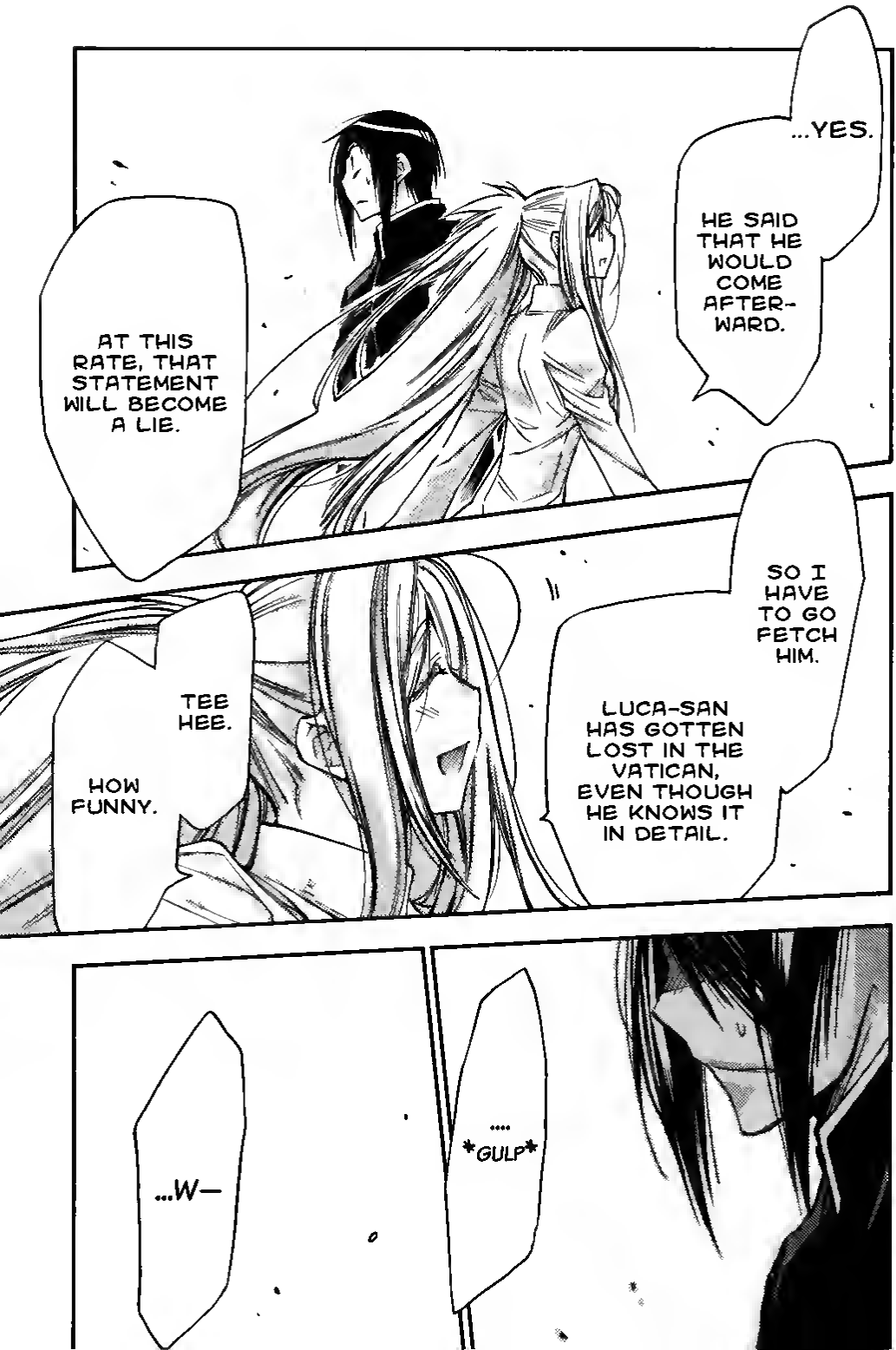
LUCA-
SAN...
SFX: GASP
!
EH?
...
WAIT.
CELCIA
...?!


LUCA-SAN...
HE SURE IS LATE, ISN'T HE, NAOYA?
SFX: SMILE
...I'LL GO GET HIM.
OKAY?

CELCIA...?!

WHAT'S WRONG, CELCIA?!
...NAOYA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT LOOKS LIKE LUCA-SAN WON'T BE HERE?
CE—
WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM, LUCA-SAN'S ACCOUNT WILL BE FINE, RIGHT?
LUCA-SAN CANNOT LIE, SO SURELY THEY'LL ALL BELIEVE HIM.
RIGHT?

JUST AS I DO.


...YES.
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD COME AFTER-WARD.
AT THIS RATE, THAT STATEMENT WILL BECOME A LIE.
SO I HAVE TO GO FETCH HIM.
LUCA-SAN HAS GOTTEN LOST IN THE VATICAN, EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS IT IN DETAIL.
TEE HEE.
HOW FUNNY.
....
GULP
...W—

WAIT.
YOU CAN'T GO, CELCIA.
.....
NAO-YA.

THEN GIVE BACK
LUCA-SAN...
RETURN LUCA-SAN TO ME!!

HOW COME YOU ONLY BROUGHT ME OUT?!
DIDN'T I SAY NOT TO LEAVE LUCA-SAN BEHIND?!
NAOYA!
HEY!

I SAID TO BOTH NAOYA AND LUCA-SAN
THAT YOU MUSTN'T DIE.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW PAINFUL IT WOULD BE IF I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED.
IT WOULD NOT BE OKAY IF ONLY I REMAINED.

NAOYA.
GO GET LUCA AND BRING HIM HERE.
NAOYA.
NAOYA!

LUCA-SAN...
CRY
LUCA-SAN...
LUCA-SAN...
SOB
...

The situation at present—
The Vatican is sealed off.
There was gunfire in the Papal residence. The Vatican is conducting an internal investigation.
They are rejecting attempts at investigation by the Rome city police.
The Vatican has announced that...
BRING HIM BACK TO ME...!

the remains of a bishop and a sentry guard were found,
but the details are unclear.
HEY, NAOYA.
HM?
IT'S ABOUT CELCIA.
SHE WON'T EAT ANYTHING, OR EVEN DRINK WATER.
IS SHE ANGRY?
NOT AT ALL. IT'S MORE LIKE SHE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

...SHE'S SOMEHOW... LIKE A RAGDOLL.
A DOLL...
...IT'S BECAUSE OF ME.
EH?
IT'S BECAUSE I'M HERE, HIKARU.

IT'S BECAUSE CELCIA HATES ME.

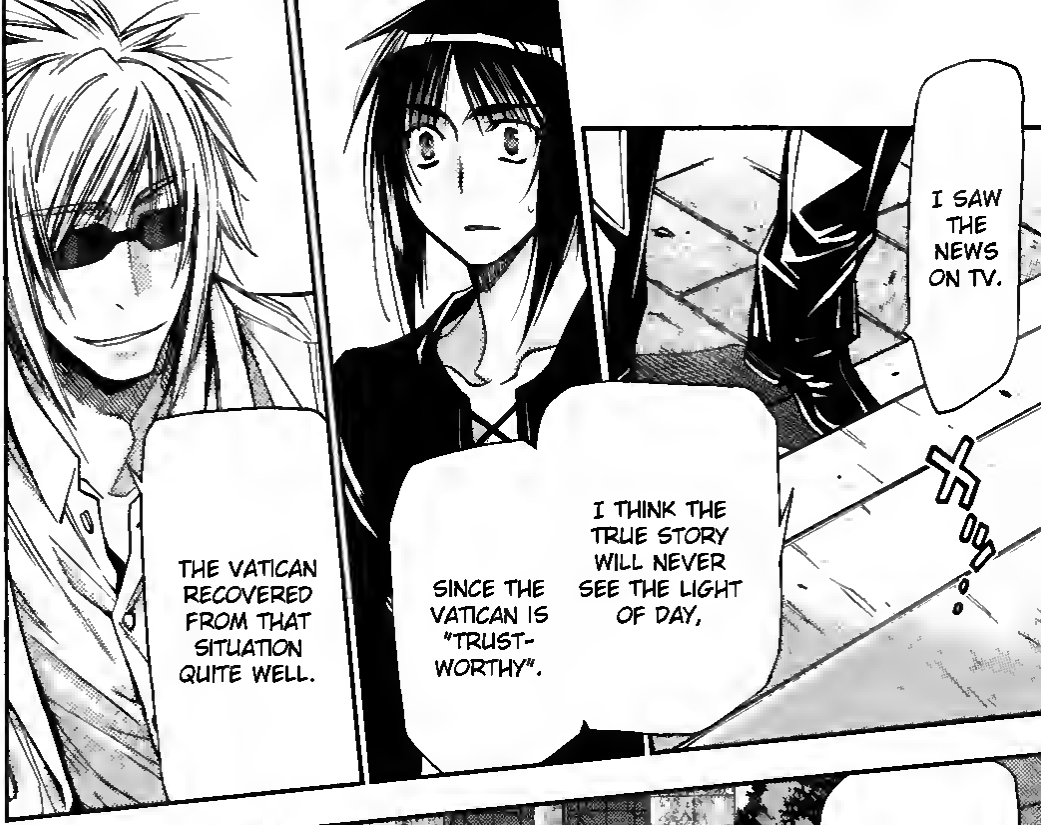
...NOT REAL-LY.
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
THANKS.

IF SHE SPEAKS, LISTEN TO HER.
YOU'RE AN EASY PERSON FOR HER TO TALK TO.

...OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I NEED TO GO SEE RIO.

I BROUGHT CELCIA BACK HERE,
BUT WITH CELCIA THE WAY SHE IS RIGHT NOW,
I CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT RIO, CAN I...?
WELCOME BACK!

WELL...
THIS IS ON EIGHTH RESEARCH PROPERTY, BUT...
I KNOW.
OH?
DIDN'T YOU RESIGN?

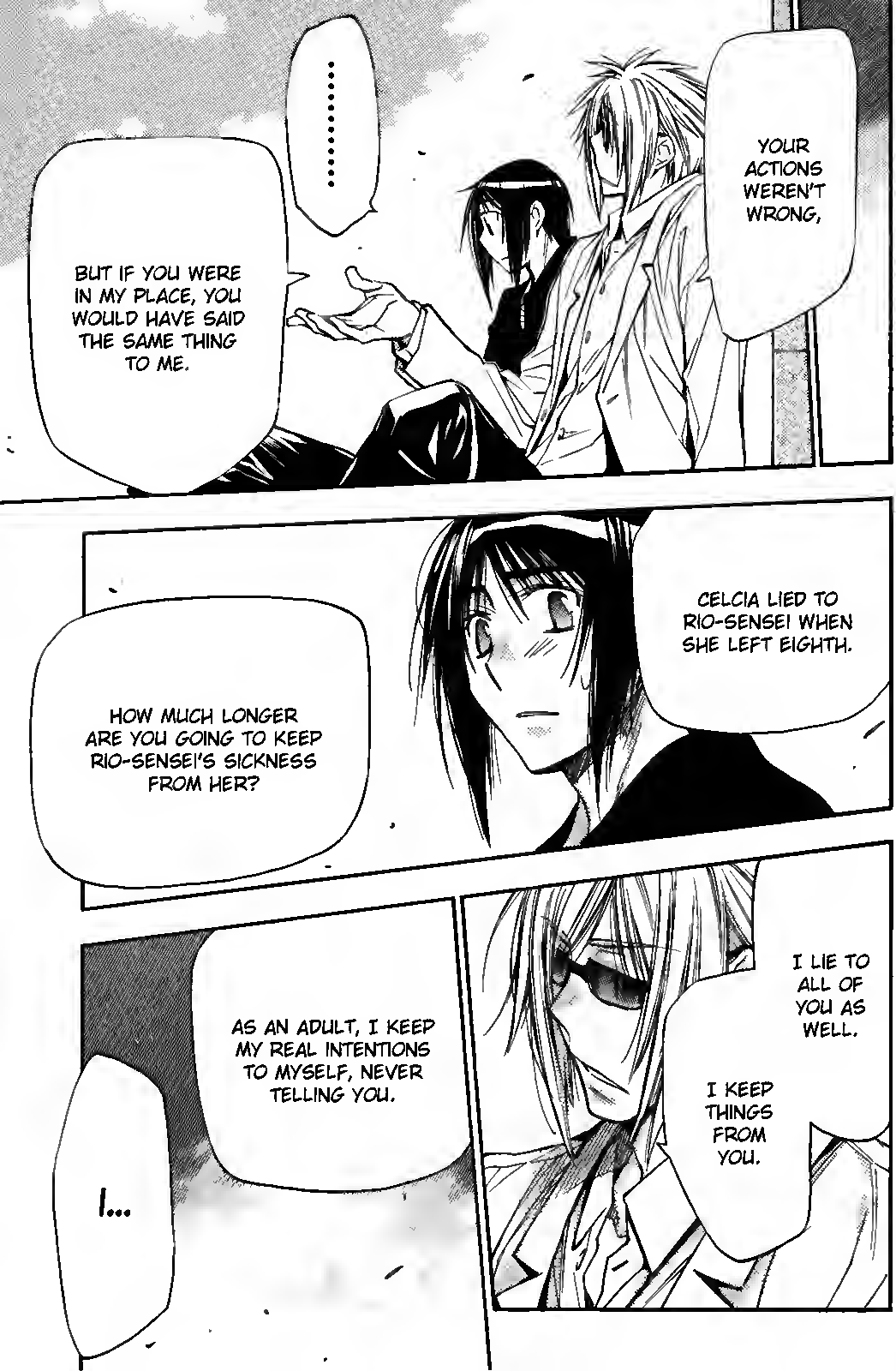

I SAW THE NEWS ON TV.
ナヒ!?
I THINK THE TRUE STORY WILL NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY,
SINCE THE VATICAN IS "TRUST-WORTHY".
THE VATICAN RECOVERED FROM THAT SITUATION QUITE WELL.

...EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD MARI-SAN COME...
DID I?
I JUST GAVE ANGELA PERMISSION TO GO WHEN SHE SAID "I WANT WHEAT!"

WELL, YOU'VE GOTTA USE WHAT YOU HAVE AVAILABLE.
Angela's fine too, though she isn't bringing in hoards of cash

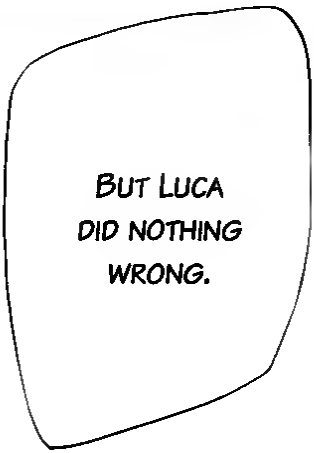
...SO?
WHY DID YOU BRING CELCIA HERE, YET NOT COME TO SEE ME?
EVEN IF I TOLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T USE CELCIA'S POWER, WOULD YOU?
RIGHT.
.....
BUT THANK GOODNESS YOU WENT TO THE VATICAN.
The resort from Mumpie gave me chills...
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH CELCIA WAS IN A BAD SITUATION.
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT.

It's totally coincidental, but you were going to send me for Celcia, weren't you?
Right.
It was all a coincidence, but your intervention did change the outcome.
I don't approve of you making the request of Celcia, but...
In your shoes, I would've done the same thing.
!


YOUR ACTIONS WEREN'T WRONG,
.....
BUT IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE, YOU WOULD HAVE SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.
CELCIA LIED TO RIO-SENSEI WHEN SHE LEFT EIGHTH.
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP RIO-SENSEI'S SICKNESS FROM HER?
I LIE TO ALL OF YOU AS WELL.
I KEEP THINGS FROM YOU.
AS AN ADULT, I KEEP MY REAL INTENTIONS TO MYSELF, NEVER TELLING YOU.
I...

I THINK THAT I AM LACKING SOMETHING.
HMM?

THAT'S HOW I WAS TO EVERY-ONE.
I THOUGHT ABOUT EVERYONE'S SITUATIONS AND ACTED ON THEM.
YOU LIED TO THEM. I UNDER-STAND.


BUT LUCA DID NOTHING WRONG.

He thought of Celcia and Rio.
And knowing that, he granted Celcia's request in a straightforward manner.
In fact, Luca had long since decided not to take Celcia to the Vatican.
Celcia decided to stay at Eighth on her own.
That's how Luca saw it.

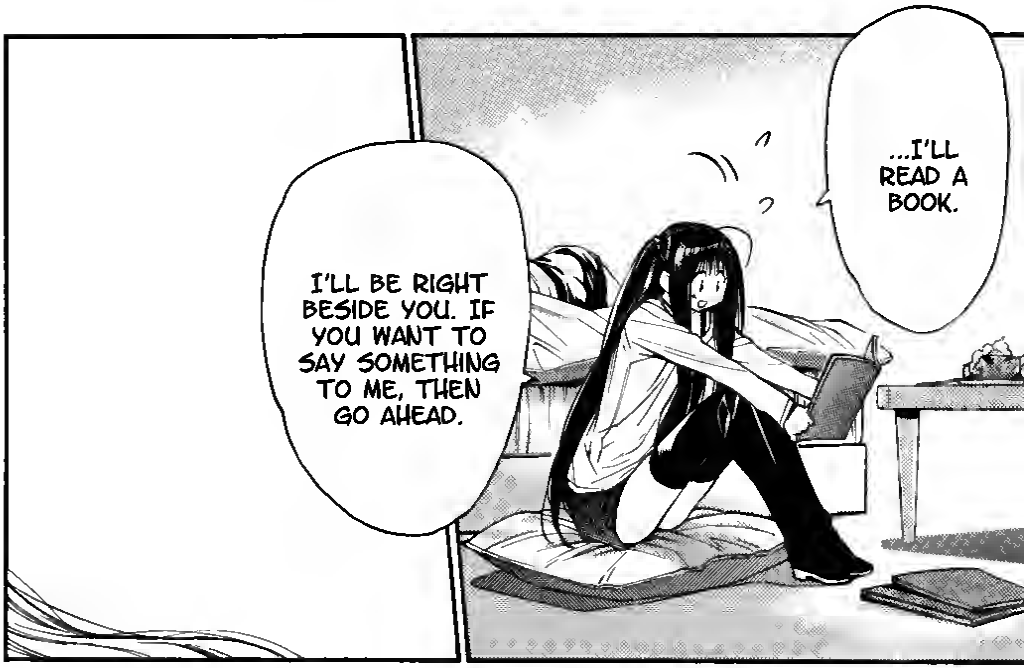
...So how did it all become like this?
Between Celcia's power, IPS...
and even the two of us. Though it's hard to say where we went wrong, the story has nonetheless come to a stop.
.....

IT IS SAID THAT "THE ENEMY OF JUSTICE IS SOME OTHER FORM OF JUSTICE".
They did that in som- time.
.....
YOU AREN'T GIVING ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER.
PRO-BABLY BECAUSE ...
IN THE STORY, THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
.....?
IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME, AND THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
NAOYA.

EH...?
I HAVE ONE TASK FOR YOU.
TAKE CELCIA TO RIO-SENSEI. AFTER THAT,
BRING HER TO ME.

...HEY.
CELCIA, UHM...
SFX: POP UP
W... WON'T YOU HAVE SOME CAKE? I BROUGHT SOME FOR YOU.
YOU LIKE IT, RIGHT?
OH.
YOU LIKE PUDDING, DON'T YOU?
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME.

.....

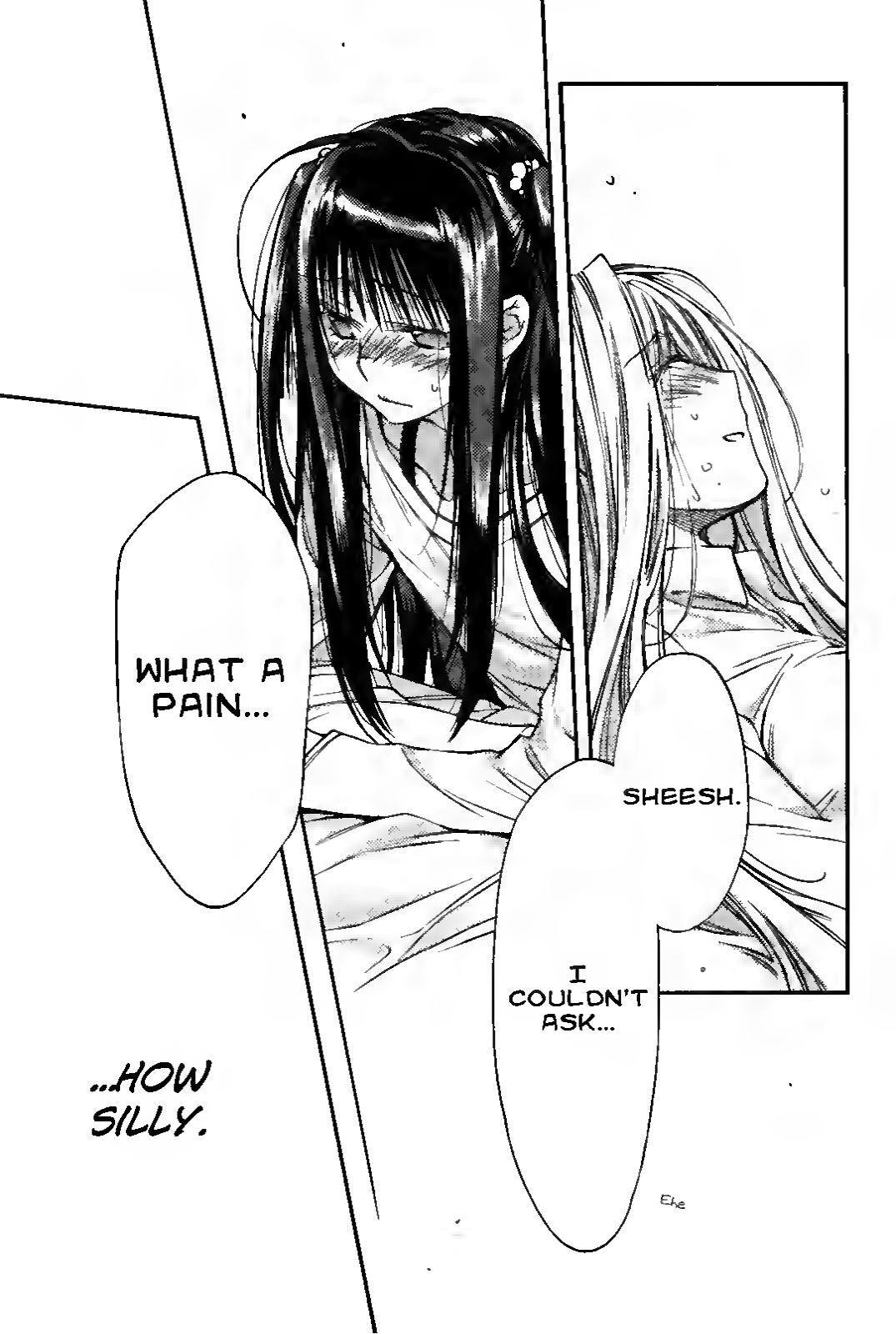

I'LL BE RIGHT BESIDE YOU. IF YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME, THEN GO AHEAD.
...I'LL READ A BOOK.

!!!
NAOYA IS THE ONE WHO LIKES PUDDING...
blush...
OH, RIGHT!
MILK PUDDING ...
LIKE I'M A LITTLE KID—?!
Whoa! Could that be how she got those big—
HIKARU-SAN, YOU LIKE CHOCO-LATE.
YUP.
RIO-SAN ONLY ATE MACARONS.
YUP.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT LUCA-SAN LIKES...
IT...
IT'S A MINE-FIELD...!!!
.....
THAT'S ...
Haha...
TRUE ...

URK...
...THAT'S TRUE.
I NEVER SAW HIM EAT ANYTHING.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ...

WHY DIDN'T I ASK MORE ABOUT HIM...?
WHY DID LUCA-SAN DO SUCH A THING?
EVEN THOUGH HIS TASK WAS ALREADY OVER AND DONE WITH...


WHAT A PAIN...
SHEESH.
I COULDN'T ASK...
...HOW SILLY.

YOU CAN HARDLY EVEN TALK TO PEOPLE.
...I THINK HE LIKED YOU.
.....
...HUH?
WHO DO YOU MEAN...?
...LUCA.
EH?

...WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT LUCA-SAN...
.....
ERM... IT'S...
LUCA WAS ALWAYS SO CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.
HE WOULD TALK ABOUT HIS DUTY, YET HE MIXED IN WITH US.
IN TRUTH, HE COULDN'T HELP BUT ALWAYS WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

...THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT ME.
...NO, I DON'T BELIEVE...
THAT'S THE CASE...
Uhmmm
...I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
I LOVE ALL OF YOU,
BUT LUCA-SAN DID SOMETHING SO CRAZY, AND...
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE HADN'T...

BUT...
IT WOULD BE STRANGE IF HE DIDN'T GET ANGRY AFTER SEEING THE GIRL HE LIKED SUFFER SUCH AN EXPERIENCE.
LUCA, I MEAN.
HE WANTED TO GET YOU *OUT* OF THERE.
IN MAKING THAT HAPPEN, HE WASN'T IN A POSITION TO ESCAPE HIMSELF.

.....
GULP
LUCA-SAN...
...I DON'T UNDER-STAND THAT AT ALL.
TO-GETHER ...

BEING TOGETHER WITH EVERY-ONE...
I LOVE ALL OF YOU,
AND YET LUCA-SAN ACTED SO SELFISHLY.

"...Go.
After this...
I'll follow."
...LUCA-
SAN...
I
HATE
YOU...!